IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims is set forth below. Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   **(Currently Amended)** A <u>computer-implemented</u> system for facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise collaboration between trading partners, comprising:

<u>a storage medium stored therein</u> a set of one or more meta-model <u>elements, each of the one or more meta-model</u> elements <u>is</u> ~~each capable of being negotiated by two or more enterprises and~~ incorporated into a negotiated meta-model that describes an agreement between ~~the~~ <u>two or more</u> enterprises as to collaborations between the <u>two or more</u> enterprises, each <u>of the one or more</u> meta-model element ~~in the set~~ <u>comprising data</u> describing ~~a portion of~~ a ~~potential~~ standard for collaboration between <u>the two or more</u> enterprises;

<u>a storage medium stored therein</u> a meta-model negotiation service <u>configured</u> ~~operable~~ to:

receive an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for collaborations between the <u>two or more</u> enterprises;

provide <u>the two or more enterprises</u> access to the set of <u>one or more</u> meta-model elements;

receive selections of one or more of the meta-model elements for negotiation and incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the <u>two or more</u> enterprises;

facilitate negotiation of the selected meta-model ~~elements;~~ <u>elements between the two or more enterprises;</u>

incorporate negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for collaborations between the <u>two or more</u> enterprises; and

communicate the negotiated meta-model to the <u>two or more</u> enterprises <u>for</u> ~~to enable~~ collaborations between the <u>two or more</u> enterprises according to the standard for collaborations ~~reflected~~ in the negotiated meta-model.

2.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is <u>configured</u> ~~operable~~ to communicate the negotiated meta-model to collaboration software of the enterprises, the collaboration software <u>configured</u> ~~being operable~~ to understand and collaborate according to the negotiated meta-model substantially automatically and substantially independent of modification to the collaboration software subsequent to negotiation of the meta-model.

3.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the agreement associated with the negotiated meta-model is machine-actionable at the collaboration software of the enterprises and reflects a private, differentiated standard for collaboration customized for particular needs of the enterprises.

4.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein <u>each of</u> the <u>one or more</u> meta-model elements within the set comprise one or more of the following:

role types;

dimensions each comprising a supply chain element;

dimensionalities each comprising a combination of supply chain elements;

access of particular role types to particular dimensionalities;

collaborative transaction types relative to particular dimensionalities;

shared operations visible to the at least two enterprises; and

temporal structures of collaborative transactions.

5.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 4, wherein [[a]] <u>each of the one or more</u> meta-model ~~element~~ <u>elements</u> specifying a collaborative transaction type relative to a particular dimensionality comprises one or more of the following:

structure of the transaction;

data elements associated with the transaction;

a state model describing a life cycle of the transaction;

access that a role type has to data elements of the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;

actions that a role type can execute on the transaction relative to a state of the transaction; and

whether the transaction is a system of record or whether synchronization must occur with another system of record.

6.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the set of <u>the one or more</u> meta-model elements is specified in a template.

7.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the meta-model negotiation service comprises a joint business planning network service (JBPNS).

8.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is associated with a network service provider through which the enterprises can negotiate the <u>set of one or more</u> meta-model elements.

9.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the negotiated meta-model is represented using extensible markup language (XML).

10.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein a collaboration comprises execution of a business process or transaction according to the negotiated meta-model.

11.   **(Currently Amended)** A <u>computer-implemented</u> method for facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise collaboration between trading partners, the method performed using one or more computers, the method comprising:

receiving an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for collaborations between the <u>two or more</u> enterprises;

providing <u>the two or more enterprises</u> access to a set of one or more meta-model elements, each <u>of the one or more</u> meta-model <u>elements is</u> ~~element in the set capable of being negotiated by the enterprises and~~ incorporated into a negotiated meta-model that describes an agreement between the <u>two or more</u> enterprises as to collaborations between the <u>two or more</u> enterprises, each meta-model element ~~in the set~~ <u>comprising data</u> describing ~~a portion of~~ a ~~potential~~ standard for collaboration between <u>the two or more</u> enterprises;

receiving selections of one or more of the meta-model elements for negotiation and incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the <u>two or more</u> enterprises;

facilitating negotiation of the selected meta-model ~~elements;~~ <u>elements between the two or more enterprises;</u>

incorporating negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for collaborations between the enterprises; and

communicating the negotiated meta-model to the enterprises to enable collaborations between the enterprises according to the standard for collaborations reflected in the negotiated meta-model.

12.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 11, further comprising communicating the negotiated meta-model to collaboration software of the enterprises, the collaboration software <u>configured</u> ~~being operable~~ to understand and collaborate according to the negotiated meta-model substantially automatically and substantially independent of modification to the collaboration software subsequent to negotiation of the meta-model.

13.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the agreement associated with the negotiated meta-model is machine-actionable at the collaboration software of the enterprises and reflects a private, differentiated standard for collaboration customized for particular needs of the enterprises.

14.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 11, wherein <u>each of</u> the <u>one or more</u> meta-model elements within the set comprise one or more of the following:

role types;

dimensions each comprising a supply chain element;

dimensionalities each comprising a combination of supply chain elements;

access of particular role types to particular dimensionalities;

collaborative transaction types relative to particular dimensionalities;

shared operations visible to the at least two enterprises; and

temporal structures of collaborative transactions.

15.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 14, wherein [[a]] <u>each of the one or</u> <u>more</u> meta-model ~~element~~ <u>elements</u> specifying a collaborative transaction type relative to a particular dimensionality comprises one or more of the following:

structure of the transaction;

data elements associated with the transaction;

a state model describing a life cycle of the transaction;

access that a role type has to data elements of the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;

actions that a role type can execute on the transaction relative to a state of the transaction; and

whether the transaction is a system of record or whether synchronization must occur with another system of record.

16.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the set of <u>the one or more</u> meta-model elements is specified in a template.

17.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the meta-model negotiation service comprises a joint business planning network service (JBPNS).

18.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is associated with a network service provider through which the enterprises can negotiate the <u>set of one or more</u> meta-model elements.

19.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the negotiated meta-model is represented using extensible markup language (XML).

20.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein a collaboration comprises execution of a business process or transaction according to the negotiated meta-model.

21.   **(Currently Amended)** <u>A computer-readable storage media embodied with software</u> ~~Software~~ for facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise collaboration between trading partners, the software ~~embodied in computer-readable media and~~ when executed <u>using one or more computer systems is configured</u> ~~operable~~ to:

receive an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for collaborations between the <u>two or more</u> enterprises;

provide <u>the two or more enterprises</u> access to a set of one or more meta-model elements, each <u>of the one or more</u> meta-model <u>elements is</u> ~~element in the set capable of being negotiated by the enterprises and~~ incorporated into a negotiated meta-model that describes an agreement between the <u>two or more</u> enterprises as to collaborations between the <u>two or more</u> enterprises, each meta-model element ~~in the set~~ <u>comprising data</u> describing <u>a</u> ~~portion of~~ a ~~potential~~ standard for collaboration between <u>the two or more</u> enterprises;

receive selections of one or more of the meta-model elements for negotiation and incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the <u>two or more</u> enterprises;

facilitate negotiation of the selected meta-model ~~elements;~~ <u>elements between the two or more enterprises;</u>

incorporate negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for collaborations between the enterprises; and

communicate the negotiated meta-model to the enterprises to enable collaborations between the enterprises according to the standard for collaborations reflected in the negotiated meta-model.

22.   **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ <u>computer-readable storage media</u> of Claim 21, further <u>configured</u> ~~operable~~ to communicate the negotiated meta-model to collaboration software of the enterprises, the collaboration software <u>configured</u> ~~being operable~~ to understand and collaborate according to the negotiated meta-model substantially automatically and substantially independent of modification to the collaboration software subsequent to negotiation of the meta-model.

23.   **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ <u>computer-readable storage media</u> of Claim 21, wherein the agreement associated with the negotiated meta-model is machine-actionable at the collaboration software of the enterprises and reflects a private, differentiated standard for collaboration customized for particular needs of the enterprises.

24.   **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ <u>computer-readable storage media</u> of Claim 21, wherein <u>each of</u> the <u>one or more</u> meta-model elements within the set comprise one or more of the following:

role types;

dimensions each comprising a supply chain element;

5 dimensionalities each comprising a combination of supply chain elements;

access of particular role types to particular dimensionalities;

collaborative transaction types relative to particular dimensionalities;

shared operations visible to the at least two enterprises; and

temporal structures of collaborative transactions.

25.   **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ <u>computer-readable storage media</u> of Claim 24, wherein [[a]] <u>each of the one or more</u> meta-model ~~element~~ <u>elements</u> specifying a collaborative transaction type relative to a particular dimensionality comprises one or more of the following:

structure of the transaction;

data elements associated with the transaction;

a state model describing a life cycle of the transaction;

access that a role type has to data elements of the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;

actions that a role type can execute on the transaction relative to a state of the transaction; and

whether the transaction is a system of record or whether synchronization must occur with another system of record.

26.   **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ <u>computer-readable storage media</u> of Claim 21, wherein the set of <u>the one or more</u> meta-model elements is specified in a template.

27.   **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ <u>computer-readable storage media</u> of Claim 21, wherein the meta-model negotiation service comprises a joint business planning network service (JBPNS).

28.   **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ <u>computer-readable storage media</u> of Claim 21, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is associated with a network service provider through which the enterprises can negotiate the <u>set of one or more</u> meta-model elements.

29.   **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ <u>computer-readable storage media</u> of Claim 21, wherein the negotiated meta-model is represented using extensible markup language (XML).

30.   **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ <u>computer-readable storage media</u> of Claim 21, wherein a collaboration comprises execution of a business process or transaction according to the negotiated meta-model.

31.   **(Currently Amended)** A <u>computer-implemented</u> system for facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise collaboration between trading partners, comprising:

means for receiving an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for collaborations between the <u>two or more</u> enterprises;

means for providing <u>the two or more enterprises</u> access to a set of one or more meta-model elements, <u>of the one or more</u> meta-model <u>elements is</u> ~~element in the set capable of being negotiated by the enterprises and~~ incorporated into a negotiated meta-model that describes an agreement between the <u>two or more</u> enterprises as to collaborations between the <u>two or more</u> enterprises, each meta-model element ~~in the set~~ <u>comprising data</u> describing ~~a portion of~~ a ~~potential~~ standard for collaboration between <u>the two or more</u> enterprises;

means for receiving selections of one or more of the meta-model elements for negotiation and incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the <u>two or more</u> enterprises;

means for facilitating negotiation of the selected meta-model ~~elements;~~ <u>elements between the two or more enterprises;</u>

means for incorporating negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for collaborations between the enterprises; and

means for communicating the negotiated meta-model to the enterprises to enable collaborations between the enterprises according to the standard for collaborations reflected in the negotiated meta-model.

32-50. **(Canceled)**